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## ERS Cosponsors Rural Manufacturing Workshop

ERS and the University of Guelph recently cosponsored a workshop on "Rural America and the Changing Structure of Manufacturing: Spatial Implications of New Technology and Organization," in Washington, D.C.

The first session of the workshop discussed rural manufacturing in the context of the global economy. Amy Glasmier (Pennsylvania State University) spoke on the effects of trade policy, Edward Makecki (University of Florida) spoke on competitiveness, and Bruce Phillips (Small Business Administration) spoke on small high-tech rural businesses.

Session two focused on flexible production, producer networks, and producer services. The presenters were Meric Gertler (University of Toronto), Alan MacPherson (State University of New York at Buffalo), William Coffey (University of Quebec), and Dave Freshwater (University of Kentucky).

Policy issues related to rural manufacturing were discussed in the final session. James Harrington (George Mason University), Susan Christopherson (Cornell University), and John Alic (Office of Technology Assessment) were presenters.

ERS' Agriculture and Rural Economy Division had lead responsibility for the workshop. ERS participants included Andy Bernat, Kenneth Deavers, Martha Frederick, Merritt Hughes, Michael Lahr, Sara Mazie, David

McGranahan, James Miller, John Redman, David Sears, Peter Stenberg, Paul Swaim, and Deborah Tootle. Other workshop participants were Lucy Gorham of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress and Philip Ehrensaft of the University of Quebec.

## ERS Modeling Team Visits China

Harry Baumes, Francis Tuan, and Shwu-Eng Webb (ERS) and Catherine Halbrendt (University of Delaware) traveled to China as an agriculture modeling team sponsored by USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development. The purpose of the team's 2-week visit to China was to demonstrate the usefulness of quantitative frameworks in evaluating policy alternatives. The team stressed the importance of quality statistics to good policy analysis during meetings with government and academic researchers in Beijing, Nanjing, Chongqing, and Guangzhou.

Discussions with the Chinese provided ERS researchers a check on their understanding of Chinese food and agricultural policies and on ERS analyses of how the policies will affect U.S. agricultural trade. The team observed firsthand the fast pace of economic reform in China. Chinese researchers proposed exchanges and joint studies with ERS, including one on the impact of China's accession to GATT.

## Joint ERS/FAS Data Team Travels to the Former U.S.S.R.

William Liefert and David Sedik (ERS) and Robert Riemenschneider and Robin Tilsworth (FAS) formed a joint ERS/FAS data-gathering team that spent 2 weeks visiting officials in Russia and Ukraine. The team's objectives were to obtain existing data concerning the republics' agricultural and food economies and to establish a relationship with appropriate agencies for the long-term exchange of data and information.

The team visited the State Statistical Committees of Russia, Ukraine, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the All-Union Statistical Committee, based in Moscow, which continues to provide data on all 11 member republics of the Commonwealth); the Ministries of Agriculture of Russia and Ukraine; the Russian Supreme Soviet and Ministry of Finance; and research institutes and new commercial news organizations. Liefert and Sedik also obtained valuable data through post-team meetings with specialists and researchers in the government and institutes with whom ERS staff have maintained strong professional contacts. At the conclusion of the trip, Liefert met with FAO analysts in Rome to explain the objectives and results of the USDA team visit, present the results of ERS analyses on the food economies in the former U.S.S.R. republics, and discuss FAO's efforts to gather information on agriculture in the former U.S.S.R.

## Gray Is USDA Policy Adviser to Kazakhstan

Kenneth Gray, a senior economist in ERS' Agricultural and Trade Analysis Division, has been appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan as USDA's agricultural policy adviser to Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture requested an adviser to assist the country in making the transition to a market economy. In the 1-year assignment, Gray will advise the minister and other officials in the agricultural ministry, members of parliament, and other influential policymakers in Kazakhstan on food and agricultural policy matters. He will promote policies that support development of democratic rule, free markets, and free enterprise. Gray will be stationed in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan's capital. He will regularly visit Washington, to consult with USDA officials in developing policy recommendations.

In announcing the appointment, Secretary Madigan emphasized Gray's broad experience during his academic and Government career. Gray joined ERS in 1986 and has done extensive research on the former U.S.S.R.'s agricultural economy, especially its livestock economy. His most recent research has focused on attempts to privatize agriculture. With his Russian language skills and long- and short-term assignments in the former U.S.S.R. during the past 25 years,

Gray has developed important contacts in the former U.S.S.R. and has become an authority on the differences between market and command economies.

## USDA's NRI Awards Research Grants to ERS

Three research projects in ERS' Agriculture and Rural Economy Division were awarded grants in the new rural development category of USDA's Cooperative State Research Service National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program.

John Cromartie and Linda Swanson received a grant for a 2-year study on "Exploring Rural Settlement: New Statistical Areas Based on Subcounty Geography." Michael Lahr and Hank Robison (University of Idaho) received a grant for a study on "Improving Rural Economic Models: Trade Hierarchies and Selective Survey Work." This is a 3-year project to develop methods for building hybrid regional input-output models in a central-place hierarchical context.

Finally, a 2-year project on "Worker Skill Upgrading and Rural Revitalization" by Elizabeth Greenberg, Paul Swaim, and Ruy Teixeira (ERS) and Michael Podgursky and Dale Ballou (University of Massachusetts) was awarded a grant. They will be using a variety of new data sets to examine the potential role of

schools and job training programs in preparing rural workers for employment in growing sectors of the economy and in fostering economic diversification in rural areas.

## ERS Initiates Evaluation of Nutrition Education

ERS is working closely with other USDA agencies involved in nutrition education to develop evaluation strategies to assess the cost and effect of USDA activities. ERS has lead responsibility in developing a consistent evaluation framework that can be used for individual program evaluation as well as crosscutting evaluation. ERS is represented on the Nutrition Education Evaluation Committee by Patrick O'Brien, David Smallwood, and Jon Weimer.

ERS is also developing a prototype nutrition education evaluation model that incorporates three measures of behavioral change: (1) diet/health knowledge; (2) food and nutrient intake; and (3) anthropometric assessments. The evaluation model is being applied to a pilot nutrition education program for a group deemed to be at high nutritional risk—pregnant and parenting teens in low-income households. The assessment will include pre- and post-tests for each measure for both a treatment and control group of individuals.

Research is also continuing on the behavioral links between diet and health awareness and knowledge and its effect on food and nutrient consumption patterns. Preliminary evidence suggests that nutritionally aware individuals have altered their consumption of foods in response to health concerns but have not been more successful in altering their nutrient intake.

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## *Serving Society by Improving Markets: An Exciting Opportunity for Agricultural Economists*



For several years, there has been some work in ERS on market externalities: the costs and benefits of private actions not included in the workings of the markets. To the extent that externalities exist, market solutions may leave a residue of societal problems that lead people to be dissatisfied with markets, when, in fact, the problem may not be with markets at all but with the institutional and legal setting within which they operate. All markets are governed by a set of rules, conventions, laws, and societal norms. The way to achieve agreement of private and societal objectives most efficiently is through the marketplace where all private and social costs and benefits are accounted for in the supply and demand functions. A strategy of "internalizing externalities," that is, of folding previously excluded social costs and benefits into the workings of markets, would also be most likely to restore public confidence in market approaches as the norm for operating national economies.

A challenge for ERS and for the economics profession is to develop the research base for facilitating improved market performance (in terms of meeting long-term societal goals). That requires that we identify:

- types and size of costs and benefits of private decisions not now captured in the markets in which those decisions are made; and
- efficient ways to bring those costs and benefits into the workings of markets.

The prospects for work in this area are exciting. The Resources and Technology Division has a promising start with its previous work on externalities: Eldon Ball's work on incorporating environmental costs into the USDA productivity accounts and new work on "environmental costing" is just getting underway in cooperation with others in the profession.

Other ERS divisions also have opportunities. The Agriculture and Rural Economy Division has proposed developing a conceptual framework for incorporating externalities into the national income accounts. This project would build on the environmental costing work underway in RTD. Economists in the Commodity Economics Division have a vested interest in knowing how including social costs not now included in private markets would change the shape of cost-of-production distribution curves now produced in ARED and CED. How are the externalities distributed across farms producing a particular crop? Why are they distributed that way? What would be the implications and to whom of moving those externalities into the workings of commodity markets?

The Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division will also want to know how the total social costs of producing corn or wheat in the United States compare with those for other countries and how internalizing those costs would affect the relative competitive positions of competing exporters. Such issues are likely to be of great interest in future trade negotiations.

Improved knowledge of environmental and other social costs of producing agricultural commodities in the United States also offers major opportunities for our physical and biological science colleagues. While current environmental costs of production, for example, reflect the current state of practiced technology, the key to reducing those costs is improved technology. Economists can be helpful to the physical and biological sciences by identifying where the costs, hence opportunities for cost reduction, are greatest and by pointing out to funders the potential payoff from additional investment in improved technology in those areas.

This opportunity is one of many ahead in agricultural economics.

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Another year is almost history. As I reflect on the personal and professional fulfillment I have enjoyed this year, I am moved to paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Rarely before has one owed so much to so many." Thank you all. May the holiday season find you at peace with your life, your work, and your neighbors, and may 1993 be a year of progress for all of us who share this shrinking planet Earth.

John Lee



Kuhn



Kuchler



Bentley



Browne

### **Kuhn Is New RTD Branch Chief**

Betsey Kuhn has been named chief, Land and Global Resources Branch, Resources and Technology Division. She previously served as RTD's deputy director for policy research and staff analysis. As deputy director, Kuhn was responsible for planning, coordinating, managing, and reviewing division research on national and international issues pertaining to natural resource, environmental, technology, and climate policies. She also was instrumental in developing RTD's workforce diversity activities as well as coordinating an ethanol and biofuels project.

Prior to joining ERS in 1990, Kuhn worked for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the regulatory agency for futures and commodity option markets. At the CFTC, Kuhn was the acting associate director of research in the Division of Economic Analysis.

Kuhn has conducted research on margin requirements and short-term commodity price behavior, the effect of regulation on international competitiveness, and the pricing efficiency of futures markets. She also completed a study of how market reforms, enacted after the stock market crash of 1987, affected the volatility of securities prices during October 1989.

Kuhn was a visiting scholar with the Rockefeller Foundation during 1983. Her earlier research was also supported by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She has received a USDA Superior Service Award and an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award as leader of RTD's Workforce Diversity Team. She has a B.A. in economics from Coucher College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

### **Kuchler Becomes New RTD Section Leader**

Fred Kuchler has been named leader, Demand for Risk Reduction Section, Environmental and Health Risk Branch, Resources and Technology Division. The section will examine how agriculture-related health risks influence food consumption and the demand for safety regulation throughout food marketing chains.

Kuchler previously led the Land Values Section in carrying out a program estimating farmland values and conducting economic research related to the farmland market. His research examined how closely farmland prices were linked to the financial returns from farming. Kuchler has published papers on speculative bubbles in farmland prices, longrun relations between prices and returns, and the relative

volatility of farmland prices and returns to land ownership.

Kuchler joined ERS in 1981, where his research involved cooperative efforts with a broad array of Federal and State scientists to develop economic impact estimates to guide USDA's response to pesticide regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. In 1985, Kuchler became project leader for technology research in the Inputs, Technology, and Productivity Branch. There his research focused on economic assessments of new technologies and the impacts of regulations on research and development in the biotechnology industry.

Kuchler's research has been widely published in USDA and outside sources and has earned him three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for outstanding research.

Kuchler has an A.B. in economics from the University of California (Davis) and an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

### **Bentley Receives Women's Action Task Force Award**

Susan Bentley received one of four individual awards granted by USDA's Women's Action Task Force during a recent ceremony to

commemorate Women's Equality Day. Bentley was selected for her instrumental work in furthering ERS' policies on flexible work place options, including the recently implemented ERS part-time policy. While her efforts have benefited all ERS employees, women continue to bear the primary burden of balancing work and family responsibilities. As stated in the nomination, "Her efforts on behalf of flexible work place strategies have been quite extraordinary and her colleagues recognize and appreciate her industry." Bentley is a sociologist with the Agriculture and Rural Economy Division's Farm and Rural Economy Branch.

### **Browne Is ERS Civil Rights Manager**

Pat Browne has assumed the new ERS position of Civil Rights Manager. She worked with ERS for the past year while she was a

member of the Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Staff in USDA's Economics Management Staff. This change has been made to further strengthen and expand the Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights program within ERS and to enhance ERS' ability to develop a diverse work force based on the fundamental value of respect.

Browne will work with Kitty Reichelderfer, Vicki Smith, the ERS Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, and other ERS employees on a whole array of equal opportunity, cultural diversity, and quality of work life issues. She will also be available to provide confidential counsel and advice to anyone in ERS who has questions or concerns regarding respect and civil rights protection on the job.

Before coming to USDA in May 1991, Browne was in private practice as a psychotherapist in Madison, Wisconsin, where she worked with adult survivors of

sexual abuse and provided training and consultation to the Madison Rape Crisis Center, the University of Wisconsin Women's Center, and other organizations involved in civil rights issues.

Browne has a B.A. in English from the College of St. Catherine and an M.A. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her background in psychotherapy comes from clinical training at the Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison.

## **Highlights of Staff Activities**

### *Agriculture and Rural Economy Division*

At an NC-207 regional research committee meeting on regulatory efficiency and management issues affecting rural financial markets, in St. Paul, MN, **Patrick Sullivan** presented a paper, "The Structure of Rural Bank Markets and the Costs of Borrowing: The Case of FmHA Guaranteed Loans"; and **Steven Koenig** presented a paper, "Life Insurance Company Farm Lending During the 1980's: Evolution or Revolution?" (coauthored with **Jerry Stam**) • **Koenig** and **Sullivan** spoke on data needs to institute a capital stress test for Farmer Mac at a Farm Credit Administration meeting, in Washington, DC • **Robert Collender** participated in a Federal Reserve Bank conference on efficiency in the financial services industry, in Atlanta, GA • **Kenneth Deavers** spoke on the rural

economy in a global context at the organizing meeting of the Idaho Rural Development Council, in Boise, ID • **Deavers** spoke on rural economic trends with Purdue University Extension Service staff, in Washington, DC • **Deavers** also spoke on rural conditions and trends at the organizing meeting of the Florida State Rural Development Council, in Tallahassee, FL • **Laura Geis** traveled to Denver, CO; Chicago, IL; and St. Paul, MN; to interview people involved in the financing of farmer-owned cooperatives • **Chinkook Lee** participated in a Korea-America Economic Association conference on Korea at a cross road, in Washington, DC • **Sara Mazie** spoke on rural conditions and trends at the organizing meeting of the North Carolina State Rural

Development Council, in Raleigh, NC • **John Redman** represented ERS at a Council of Governors' Policy Advisers Rural Competitiveness Academy, in Seattle, WA • **Thomas Rowley** participated in a Council of Governors' Policy Advisers conference, in Boulder, CO • **Rowley** also participated in a meeting of the Rural Development Administration and the Office of the President's Initiative on Rural Development, in Denver, CO • **Rowley** and **David Sears** participated in the President's Initiative on Rural America retreat, in Warm Springs, OR • and **Sears** also spoke on ERS research on rural development strategies at a Sustainable Development Group meeting at the University of Oregon.



## *Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division*

Harry Baumes spoke on trade issues for the Western Hemisphere at the University of Delaware, in Newark, DE • Timothy Baxter presented a paper, "Richardian Equivalence and Income Taxes," at a Project Link international macroeconomic forecasting meeting, in Ankara, Turkey • William Coyle, Larry Deaton, and John Dyck presented seminars on ERS long-range projections and discussed Japanese agriculture with policymakers, industry representatives, and researchers, in Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan • Terry Disney participated in a Commodity Promotion Policy in a Global Economy conference, sponsored by the NEC-63 regional research committee on commodity promotion programs, in Arlington, VA • John Dyck spoke on ERS' analysis of Korean agriculture with researchers, in Seoul, Korea

• Suchada Langley presented two papers, "Agricultural Support Policies" and "U.S. Agricultural Policies" at a World Bank-sponsored International Dimension of Agricultural Development workshop, in Brasilia, Brazil • Susan Leetmaa and Mark Lundell traveled to Warsaw, Poland, to initiate an EC integration study using the SWOPSIM modeling framework • Lundell also participated in a World Bank Assessment meeting on Ukrainian agriculture, in Ukraine • Carl Mabbs-Zeno led an eight-person team to Zambia to develop an action plan for environmental policy reform • Stephen Magiera presented a paper, "The Indonesian Agricultural Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities," at an International Food Policy Research Institute conference on Southeast Asia agriculture in

transition, in Jakarta, Indonesia • Emily McClain spoke on the economic situation in Latin America at a USDA Joint Council National Committee on International Science and Education meeting, in Washington, DC • Edward Overton traveled to Managua, Nicaragua, for the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop and test a cost of production survey • David Peacock and Constanza Valdes participated in a perspectives conference held in Bogota, Colombia • Jerry Sharples presented a paper, "A GATT Agreement, Policy Reform, and the Global Farm Machinery Industry," at a Club of Bologna meeting, in Bologna, Italy • and James Stout participated in a general equilibrium modeling conference sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, ON.

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## *Commodity Economics Division*

At an Atlantic Economic Society meeting in Plymouth, MA, Roger Hoskin chaired an agricultural economics session; Bengt Hyberg spoke on the effects of EEP on soybean markets; and William Lin presented a paper, "Measuring Smuggling from China to Taiwan: The Case of Peanuts" • Karen Ackerman presented a paper, "The Economic Impacts of Export Market Promotion" (coauthored with Shida Henneberry, Oklahoma State University), at an NEC-63 regional research committee conference on policymaking, in Arlington, VA • Diane Bertelsen, Frederick Hoff, and Gary Lucier staffed the ERS exhibit at a Produce Marketing Association meeting, in Denver, CO • Donald Blayney, James Miller, and Mark Weimar participated in an NC-198 regional research committee meeting on dairy

marketing, in Washington, DC • Linda Calvin, Gregory Gajewski, Sharon Jans (RTD), and Biing-Hwan Lin (RTD) traveled with a Japanese government researcher to Rodale Institute Research Center to observe sustainable farming systems trials, in Kutztown, PA • Lee Christensen, Terry Crawford, Agnes Perez, and Larry Witucki participated in a National Broiler Council meeting, in Washington, DC • Christensen spoke on the poultry and egg outlook for 1993 at a Southern Regional Outlook Conference, in Atlanta, GA • Christensen spoke on the poultry and egg outlook for 1993 at a Northeast Poultry show, in Lancaster, PA • Christensen also spoke on the overall outlook for 1993 on poultry and eggs at a joint meeting of the Pacific Egg and Poultry Association and American

Egg Board, in San Francisco, CA • Howard Elitzak presented a paper, "Food Marketing Costs in the United States," at a Ministry of Food and Agriculture meeting, in Toronto, ON • Verner Grise presented a paper, "The Situation and Outlook for Tobacco—Emphasis on Burley and Dark Tobacco," at a Burley and Dark Leaf Tobacco Association meeting, in Louisville, KY • Shannon Hamm spoke on the situation and outlook for processing mushrooms at a mushroom processor's meeting, in Chads Ford, PA • Charles Handy participated in an OECD meeting on structural adjustment in the agro-food industry, in Paris, France • Janet Livezey discussed California rice production, marketing, and policy issues with rice producers, researchers, and industry leaders, in Sacramento, CA



- **Kenneth Matthews** spoke on the benefits and costs of animal health and **Tanya Roberts** spoke on foodborne illnesses and animal production at an NC-168 regional research meeting on epidemiology and economics of disease losses and prevention, in Rock Springs, KS

- **Scott Sanford** spoke on the outlook for the 1992 soybean crop at a Southern Regional Outlook Conference, in Atlanta, GA
- and **Sanford** also spoke on the addition of peanut paste/butter utilization data in the stocks and processing report published by

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at a Peanut Industry Statistics Task Force meeting, in Washington, DC.

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## *Resources and Technology Division*

At a Southern Resource Information Exchange Group (SRIEG-10) meeting in Clearwater, FL, **Henry Buist** presented a paper, "Purchase of Development Rights Programs and the Economics of Easements"; and **Marlow Vesterby** presented a paper, "Effects of Urban Land Conversion on Agriculture" (coauthored with **Kenneth Krupa**)

- **Eldon Ball**, **Christophe Bureau**, and **Jet Yee** participated in a productivity measurement workshop cosponsored by Agriculture Canada and ERS, in Ottawa, ON
- **Patrick Canning** presented research results on the impacts of inflation on the value of agricultural assets at an NCR-123 regional research committee meeting, in St. Paul, MN
- **Zena Cook** met with USDA staff working on a program evaluation study under the President's Water Quality Initiative, in Payette, ID
- **Cook**, **Nicole Ballenger**, **Rachel Beattie**, **Marca Weinberg**, **Ann Vandeman**, **Darrell Bosch**, **Russ Keim**, and **Christos Caboiis** were briefed by staff working on the Monocacy River Watershed Demonstration Project, in Walkersville, MD
- **Joseph Cooper** spoke on confidence interval estimation techniques for welfare estimators and the effects of the choice of probability distribution on qualitative dependent variable estimators at the Università degli Studi di Catania, in Catania, Sicily, Italy
- **Stephen Crutchfield** presented a paper, "Issues in the Measurement of the Non-Use Value of Ground Water," at a Clean Water and the American Economy:

Ground Water Valuation Forum, cosponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and Resources for the Future, in Alexandria, VA

- **Stan Daberkow** spoke on the 1993 outlook for agrichemicals and associated policy issues at the Twin Cities Agricultural Issues Round Table, in St. Paul, MN
- **Kelly Eakin** presented a paper, "Bootstrapping Confidence Intervals for Allocative Inefficiency," at a Southern Economic Association meeting, in Washington, DC
- **Ralph Heimlich** and **Tim Osborn** discussed research results on the future use of Conservation Reserve Program land at a meeting of an ad hoc task force convened by the Great Plains Agricultural Council, in Denver, CO
- **Heimlich** also spoke on ERS' Geographic Information System at a National Center for Resource Innovations meeting, in Arlington, VA
- **Carol Kramer** participated in a Technology, Resources, and Environment: Building the Future seminar, sponsored by the Kellogg National Fellowship Program, in Seattle, WA, and also visited with graduate students at the University of Washington's Public Policy Institute
- **Betsey Kuhn** was a member of the review team for a proposed new curriculum, supported by a USDA Capacity Building grant, in Agribusiness and Statistics at Tennessee State University, in Nashville, TN
- **Michael LeBlanc** and **Marc Ribaud** discussed cooperative research on atrazine management options with Iowa State University staff, in Ames, IA
- **Ribaud** also

participated in a Midwest Regionalization Program water quality meeting, in Des Moines, IA

- **Jan Lewandrowski** presented a paper, "FARM: An Applied General Equilibrium Model for Analyzing Agriculture" (coauthored with **Roy Darwin**, **Marinos Tsigas**, **Bradley McDonald** (ATAD), and **Nicholas Kominos**); and **Tsigas** presented a paper, "An Alternative Agricultural Production System in the RUNS Model" (coauthored with **Antonio Salazar Brandao**, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) at a Computable General Equilibrium Modeling Conference, in Waterloo, ON
- **John Miranowski** spoke on ERS' Western water quantity and quality research activities at a Western Agricultural Economics Council meeting, in Arlington, VA
- **Michael Moore** presented a paper, "Rent Appropriation and Groundwater Property Right Systems in the American West: A Strategic and Laboratory Analysis," at Indiana University's Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis, in Bloomington, IN
- and **Kenneth Richards** presented a paper, "Dynamic Considerations in the Estimation of Costs of Carbon Sequestration in Large Scale Forest Plantations," at a workshop, "Global Change Assessment for Forestry, Agriculture, and Water Resources," in University Park, PA
- and **Richards** also spoke on dynamic optimization and the development of solar photovoltaics at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, in Golden, CO.

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### *Data Services Center*

Agapi Somwaru presented a paper, "A Convex Model of Multi-Input, Multi-Output Production Systems and Sensitivity Analysis" (coauthored with Richard Nehring, RTD) at the Operations Research Society of America and the Institute of Management Sciences meeting, in San Francisco, CA.

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### *Office of the Administrator*

Joseph Braxton and Paul E. Flaim participated in a Federal Imaging Conference, in Washington, DC • James Horsfield and Edward Reinsel participated in an Association of Public Data Users conference on 1992: Explorations in a New Age, in Washington, DC • John Lee chaired the Leadership Group meeting of the USDA/Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, in Washington, DC • Lee also participated in an AAEA Foundation Governing Board meeting, in Kansas City, MO

• Katherine Reichelderfer participated in the the annual meeting of the National Agricultural Research Committee, in Washington, DC • and Reichelderfer also gave a seminar and met with students and faculty at the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln, NE; participated in a meeting of the AAEA Executive Board in Portland, OR; and participated in a National Workshop for agricultural economics department heads, in Arlington, VA.